

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SERGEANT LEE GRAGG

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and honor that I rise to share with you the inspiring story of one of my constituents. Sergeant Lee Gragg is a police officer in the Palmetto Police Department, and last September, he was injured in the line of duty.

On Sunday, September 12th 2009 at 10 o'clock at night, Sgt. Gragg and his team were conducting a routine road safety check. An uncooperative driver was discovered to have a suspended license and an arrest warrant. Recognizing that the suspect was reaching for something on the floor of the car, Sgt. Gragg feared for the safety of his team and grabbed the driver's arm.

When the driver attempted to escape, Sgt. Gragg was dragged alongside the vehicle. After the driver lost control of the car, he was thrown 20 feet into the air. He was flown to Grady Hospital, where he was treated in the intensive care unit for 5 weeks. Today, I join his wife Michele Gragg in thanking God for his survival.

I was astounded to hear that a mere four months after this incident, Sgt. Gragg returned to work. Despite losing vision in one eye, suffering severe nerve damage, and undergoing more than 10 surgeries, he maintains a positive attitude. He teaches children about safety and is dedicated to community outreach. He is ever eager and determined to return to active duty. Sergeant Lee Gragg is an honorable man—a hero to his fellow police officers and a role model to his community. Madam Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring this great public servant.

A TRIBUTE RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH IN THE CITY OF BELLFLOWER

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of Calvary Baptist Church in Bellflower in the 34th Congressional District. I ask my colleagues to please join me along with the church's pastor, Dr. Michael Melton Kalapp, and his nearly 800 parishioners, in celebrating this significant milestone. In honor of the occasion, I would like to submit into the RECORD a detailed historical overview provided by the church chronicling its incredible growth throughout Calvary's many years of spiritual service to families in Bellflower and throughout the world.

A HISTORY OF CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH IN BELLFLOWER

(By the Calvary Baptist Church)

In September, 1935, a group of 14 believers, led by Reverend True H. Maxfield, sought to start a place of worship in the Bellflower area after holding a successful tent meeting. A lot located at Santa Ana and Mayne was purchased for \$275. Two months later, on November 11, 1935, a group of men began erecting a small building that would become The First Fundamental Church of Bellflower.

In 1943, the church changed its name to Calvary Baptist Church of Bellflower. By 1949, the church boasted 175 members and new property was purchased—"way out in the country"—on Ardis Avenue. It was there that volunteers built the new church, which held its first service on December 23, 1949. A farming community at the time, Bellflower would not become the 59th city in the County of Los Angeles until 1957.

In 1950, the church membership nearly doubled to 340 and additional property around the church was purchased. Seven years later, in 1957, Calvary expanded its ministry to support the Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO. The church also supported the Pima Indians in Arizona.

On June 16, 1963, after several years of leadership changes, Dr. H. Frank Collins and his family began their ministry at Calvary. Building on the church's rich history of reaching out to the community, Dr. Collins led the church to purchase a bus to provide members without transportation the opportunity to come to Calvary to worship. At its peak, this effort would grow to include 17 buses, transporting nearly 600 people to church weekly.

During Dr. Collins' 26-year ministry, he led the church through its largest expansion in buildings, membership and outreach. Unfortunately, rising costs would eventually end the church's bus ministry, as well as its television (Channel 9) and radio programming (on KGER 1390 AM).

Calvary, however, continued to grow in other ways.

In 1984, the completion of the H. Frank Collins/Calvary Baptist Church Family Center enabled the church to expand its ministry for its members and the community. This multi-purpose facility contains classrooms, a board room, counseling rooms, office space, a full-service kitchen, showers, gymnasium, and banquet seating for approximately 400 people.

Upon Dr. Collins' retirement in May 1990, Dr. Michael Kalapp became Calvary's new pastor. Under his leadership, Bible-centered life groups, and one-on-one mentorship programs were launched.

Four years later, when Calvary purchased the last remaining parcel of property on what is today the church campus, Calvary realized its dream of having a Missions home. Today, the facility serves as a Missions House and Missions Apartment, giving the church's missionaries a place to rest while in the United States. During the first decade of this century, Calvary was instrumental in the planting of new churches in Sauharita, AZ; Banning, CA; and Boston, MA. Calvary has also given more than \$1.5 million to missionary work in far reaching places such as Africa, China, Japan and the Philippines.

Calvary's growing ministries encompass a wide variety of community programs and

initiatives. On a weekly basis, Calvary provides the facilities and works with other local churches to feed, shower, and cloth people who are homeless. Church members donate food for its food pantry that serves more than 100 families a year. This Thanksgiving, church members will serve dinner to more than 500 people in the community. To help individuals fighting addictions, Calvary operates a "Celebrate Recovery" church-based spiritual support program. The church also provides space for weekly Nicotine and Narcotics Anonymous meetings. This past October, more than a thousand people from throughout the area enjoyed a free fun-filled day of games, face painting and other activities at its annual Harvest Festival. The church also hosted the Children's Summer Spectacular—a day camp for more than 60 children from throughout the community that includes Bible study, field trips and other activities. Parishioners also donate the labor, supplies and funds each year to "makeover" homes to members in need.

To raise funds for its missionaries, Calvary holds a Christmas boutique in late October. Handmade items by parishioners are sold at the annual boutique to raise funds for the church's mission work in this country and around the world. This year's boutique raised more than \$7,000. Calvary also holds a parking lot sale featuring donated items by church members to raise funds for its missions. This year's event generated \$3,000.

As Calvary celebrates its 75 year anniversary, the church is extremely proud that its central message to its congregation since its founding "way out in the country" has always remained devoutly the same: to "LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE AND CHANGE THE WORLD."

HONORING THE LIFE OF PEDRO SYPINGCO CASTRO

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Pedro Syppingco Castro, a son of Guam and veteran of the United States Navy, for his dedication and service to our community and country. Pedro passed away on September 26, 2010 at the age of 80. I commend him for his dedicated service to his community and our nation.

Pedro was born on June 29, 1930 to Jose Rosario Castro and Maria Syppingco Evangelista of Sinajana, Guam. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He served on the USS Proteus AS-19, USS Crockett PG-88, USS Haverfield DER-393, USS Lucid MSO-458, and USS Goss DE-444. He attained the rank of Boatswain's Mate Chief Petty Officer, and his awards and medals include the American Spirit Medal, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy Good Conduct awards, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal.

Although Pedro may no longer be with us, he will be remembered by his loving wife Ana,

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